

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

We claim:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of Rev-erb receptors and/or the response element thereof or a functional equivalent of these receptors to~~ A method of screening for a substance ~~screen substances which are~~ is useful in the treatment of a lipid metabolism dysfunction ~~dysfunction comprising contacting said substance with an Rev-erb receptor and/or the response element thereof or a functional equivalent thereof.~~

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ Use according to Claim 1, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the Rev-erb receptor and the Rev-erb receptor response element are the hRev-erba receptor and the hRev-erba receptor response element.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for screening substances a substance ~~which are~~ is useful in the treatment of a lipid metabolism dysfunction ~~dysfunctions,~~ characterized: ~~in that~~ comprising the

placing a test substance ~~is placed~~ in contact with a receptor of the Rev-erb family and/or a Rev-erb receptor response element, and/or a nuclear factor capable of functionally coupling Rev-erb to the RNA-polymerase complex, or a functional equivalent thereof,
and

measuring:

~~in that the following are measured by any appropriate means:~~

(a) the binding of the said test substance to the Rev-erb receptor
or

the binding of the complex formed from the said substance and the Rev-erb receptor to its response element and/or to a nuclear factor capable of functionally coupling Rev-erb to the RNAPolymerase complex,

and/or

(b) the modulation of the transcriptional activity of the genes placed under the control of a promoter comprising the Rev-erb response element.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) ~~A process~~ Process for screening substances which are useful in the treatment of lipid metabolism dysfunctions, ~~which consists in comprising~~ determining the effect of the test substance on the modulation of the expression of the gene coding for the Rev-erb receptor.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a substance selected by a screening process according to Claims 3, A method~~ for the preparation of a ~~composition, in particular a~~ pharmaceutical composition, ~~which is useful for the treatment of lipid metabolism dysfunctions associated with apolipoprotein C-III in man or animals comprising selecting a substance identified by a screening process according to Claims 3.~~

Claim 6. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a substance which is capable of binding to the Rev-erb receptor or to the response element thereof, A method~~ for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition ~~which is useful for the treatment and/or prevention of lipid metabolism dysfunctions associated with apolipoprotein C-III in man or animals comprising~~ identifying a substance which is capable of binding to the Rev-erb receptor or to the response element thereof.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a substance which is capable of modulating the transcriptional activity of a gene placed under the control of a promoter comprising the Rev-erb receptor response element, for A method~~ for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition ~~which is useful for the treatment and/or prevention of lipid metabolism dysfunctions associated with apolipoprotein C-III in man or animals comprising identifying a substance which is capable of modulating the transcriptional activity of a gene placed under the control of a promoter comprising the Rev-erb receptor response element.~~

Claim 8. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a substance which is capable of modulating the expression of the gene coding for the Rev-erb receptor A method~~ for the preparation of a composition, ~~in particular a pharmaceutical composition, which is useful for the treatment and/or prevention of lipid metabolism dysfunctions associated with apolipoprotein C-III in man or animals comprising identifying a substance which is capable of modulating the expression of the gene coding for the Rev-erb receptor.~~

Claim 9. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a screening process according to Claims 3, A~~
~~method~~ for the characterization ~~or testing, justification and claim~~ of the mechanism of action of
substances ~~possessing a substance having~~ anti-atherosclerotic properties ~~using the Rev-erb~~
~~receptors and/or the response elements thereof,~~

~~comprising~~

~~placing said substance in contact with a receptor of the Rev-erb family and/or a Rev-erb~~
~~receptor response element, and/or a nuclear factor capable of functionally coupling Rev-~~
~~erb to the RNA-polymerase complex, or a functional equivalent thereof,~~

~~and~~

~~measuring:~~

~~(a) the binding of said substance to the Rev-erb receptor~~

~~or~~

~~the binding of the complex formed from said substance and the Rev-erb receptor to its~~
~~response element and/or to a nuclear factor capable of functionally coupling Rev-erb to~~
~~the RNApolymerase complex,~~

~~and/or~~

~~(b) the modulation of the transcriptional activity of the genes placed under the control of a~~
~~promoter comprising the Rev-erb response element as well as their effect on apo C-III.~~

Claim 10. (New) The method according to claim 3, comprising measuring the expression
level of apolipoprotein C-III (apo C-III).

Claim 11. (New) The method according to claim 10 wherein a reduction in the expression
level of said apolipoprotein C-III (apo C-III) in presence of said test compound indicates that said
test compound is useful in the treatment of a lipid metabolism dysfunction.

Claim 12. (New) The method according to claim 9, comprising measuring the expression
level of apolipoprotein C-III (apo C-III).

Claim 13. (New) The method according to claim 12 wherein a reduction in the expression
level of said apolipoprotein C-III (apo C-III) in presence of said compound indicates that said
compound has anti-atherosclerotic property.